

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application, and Claim 1 is amended by the present amendment. Support for amended Claim 1 can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ Thus, no new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Onda (U.S. Patent No. 6,304,242, hereinafter "Onda") in view of Uchino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,959,600, hereinafter "Uchino"); Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Onda in view of Uchino and in further view of Karube et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,072,456, hereinafter "Karube"); and Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Onda in view of Uchino and in further view of Hanari (U.S. Patent No. 6,633,284, hereinafter "Hanari").

Applicants submit that amended Claim 1 states novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended claim 1 relates to a driving method for a flat-panel display device in which a counter electrode potential is inverted during the horizontal (vertical) blanking period subsequent to a horizontal (vertical) display period, and potentials of signal lines are fixed to a predetermined potential when the potential of the counter electrode is inverted. All the signal lines are fixed to the predetermined potential by simultaneously turning on analog switches to supply a same signal from a display signal bus to all the signal lines.

Specifically, amended Claim 1 recites, a driving method for a flat-panel display device, comprising:

“...fixing all the signal lines to a predetermined potential by simultaneously turning on said analog switches to

¹ Specification at page 22, lines 10-12.

supply a same signal from the display signal bus to all the signal lines, when the potential of the counter electrodes is inverted.”

Since the counter electrode potential is not inverted before the signal lines are fixed to the predetermined potential, the variation in the potentials of the signal lines caused by the capacitive coupling between the counter electrode and the signal lines is suppressed. If variation in the potentials of the signal lines is not suppressed, power consumption undesirably increases to charge or discharge the parasitic capacitances of the signal lines.²

The requirements for a *prima facie* case of obviousness are (1) there must be some suggestion or motivation in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings, (2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success, and (3) the prior art reference must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Applicants respectfully submit that neither Onda nor Uchida, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the features recited in amended Claim 1.

Uchino describes a technique of suppressing variation in the potential of each signal line caused with increase of a sampling rate. In this technique, a first precharge signal is simultaneously supplied to entire signal lines during a blanking period which precedes a horizontal scanning period.³

However, Uchino does not aim to suppress variation in the potential of each signal line caused by capacitive coupling between a counter electrode and the signal line. Alternatively, Uchino describes that first and second precharge signals are applied before and during a horizontal blanking period to suppress fluctuation on a video line caused by an increase in sampling rate.⁴ At no point, however, does Uchino teach or suggest that the

² Specification at page 6, lines 22-24.

³ Uchino at col. 4, lines 37-47.

⁴ Uchino at col. 1, line 67-col. 2, line 1.

timing of the precharge signals are based on the inversion of the potential of a counter electrode, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Thus, Uchino fails to teach or suggest the feature of the present invention that all the signal lines to a predetermined potential are fixed by simultaneously turning on said analog switches to supply a same signal from the display signal bus to all the signal lines, when the potential of the counter electrode is inverted, as recited in amended Claim 1.

The Official Action admits that Onda fails to teach or suggest a plurality of analog switches connected between a display signal bus and the signal lined for supplying a display signal to the signal lines and fixing all the signal lines to a predetermined potential by simultaneously turning on the analog switches to supply a same signal from the display signal bus to all the signal lines.⁵ Further, at no point does Onda teach or suggest simultaneously turning on the analog switches to supply a same signal from the display signal bus to all the signal lines when the potential of the counter electrode is inverted, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn. As Claims 2-4 depend from amended Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims also patentably define over the applied references.

As discussed above, Onda neither alone, nor in combination with Uchino teach or suggest that all the signal lines are fixed to a predetermined potential by simultaneously turning on the analog switches to supply a same signal from the display signal bus to all the signal lines, when the potential of the counter electrodes is inverted. Likewise, neither Karube nor Hanari remedy this deficiency, and therefore, none of the cited references, either alone or in combination disclose or suggest Applicant's Claims 5 and 6 which include the

⁵ Outstanding Official Action, page 4, first paragraph.

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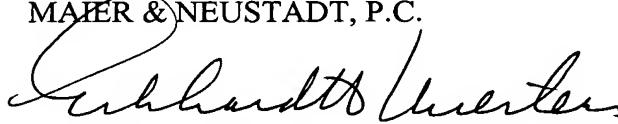
above-distinguished features by virtue of dependency. Therefore, the Official Action does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to any of these claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-6 is patentably distinguishing over the prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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